

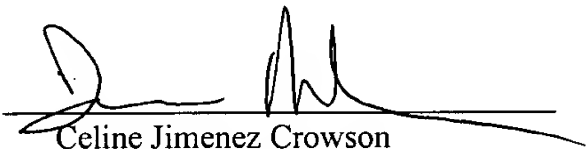
pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1349. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 22, 2002

By:



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determining an optimal configuration for the processes in said supply chain model in view of said optimization conditions.

5 54. The program storage device of claim [54] 53

further comprising the method steps of:

analyzing the optimal configuration for the supply chain;

reconfiguring the supply model as desired; and

10 re-optimizing the supply chain model.